



The Dead Horse

February 2010

DISPATCH

A newsletter by and for the volunteers of Dead Horse Ranch State Park



Double Rainbow Shines on DHRSP

A double rainbow, against a nearly black sky, was a reward after a December rainstorm. Manager Les Bovee and volunteer Nan Hephner sent pictures of this incredible event. Blended together we have achieved this photo. Ranger Randy Victory suggests that a pot of gold may lay at the base of the rainbow and in these hard times of AZ financial woes, the governing bodies may need to look to our state parks as the "Pot of Gold" that they are to the rest of AZ citizens.

Holy Cow and Leaping Lizards Frogs?

Everyone has heard of HOWDY DOODY, but how about the infamous ALWAYS-READY-FOR-DUTY-BOB-AKEY?

DHRSP Volunteer Bob Akey is often behind the scenes tinkering, adjusting, and trouble-shooting. "If you've got a problem, Bob will have the insight to find a workable solution to it," says Park Manager Les Bovee. As with many of our volunteers, Bob brings a wealth of talent and experience to DHRSP. It's pretty amazing; we often get folks from very diverse, professional backgrounds that end up donating their time here. Much to our good fortune, Bob began volunteering at DHRSP in 2004 and has been worth his weight in gold ever since. "He's a been there, done that man," states Volunteer Coordinator Eric Buzonas. Bob is an extremely reliable person and has contributed to our park in countless ways. We're very grateful that we have him here. Bob once landed a management position with Pacific Airlines, designing long-range fuel tanks for 727's. He also worked extensively on Apache helicopters

serving as a quality control engineer for about 4 years. Bob admits, "Apache helicopters were interesting, but when Eric asked me to design a 3-D wooden cow that kids can actually milk, well this is my true claim to fame!" Bob also designed the catapults for the 2009 Verde Valley Birding and Nature Festival Frog Launcher game, which as most of you know was a big hit. Bob's mechanical insight produced 3 miniature catapults that launched hundreds of gangly rubber frogs through the air and into a pool of water filled with Lily pads. Rumor has it that Eric is about to ask him for another imaginative game for the 2010 festival. Hats off to the **HOWDY DO DAT? MAN!!**



*No bull..... I'm moooved.
This photo is utterly perfect.*



Leaping Frog...

Article submitted by Ranger Eric, Photo by Nan Hephner

Volunteer News

Coming & Goings

- * Bob & Ann Nason are leaving on January 31st and will be going to Austin Texas to host at McKinney Falls State Park.
- * Karen & Emerson Trushel will be taking over the cabin position on February 1st
- * Susan B. Beach (former Birding Festival volunteer) will be available to help with park projects... Welcome!

February Milestones

- 2-Robert Nelson
- 3-Judi Mangels
- 4-Jim Monahan
- 6-Peter & Nancy Hardy (1976)
- 9-Larry & Fran Nile (1980)
- 10-George & Ruby Stolze
- 12-Bill Fritz
- 12-Bill & Maxine Bean (1983)
- 18-Norm Hephner
- 19-William Turner
- 21-Keven Ward
- 23-Dan & Margo Albright (1974)
- 24-Sandra Kendall
- 26-Wayne & Helen Kemp (1962)

Dates to Remember

February

- Tuesdays - 6:30 Gamernight, Greenway, bring snack, beverage, game, learn a new one
- 8 - Volunteer Meeting, 9 am, Greenway
- 22 (Tue) - Volunteer Meeting, 9 am, Greenway

Recipes

Volunteer Carolyn Meehan offers a quick solution to a harried day. Keep frozen chicken breasts and frozen cheese sauce broccoli on hand. Put 2 frozen chicken breasts in the bottom of a deep baking dish, then 1 cup of rice, a can of mushroom soup, a can of water, then put the frozen cheese sauce broccoli on the top. Cover and bake in oven at 350 for 1 1/2 hours. (1/2 hour less if chicken breast is not frozen.) Comes out with as cheesy, creamy, yummy, complete meal.

Randys Mug It Up!



Randy Victory & Randall Hauk both lost their tempers at a recent volunteer function held at Randall's Restaurant in Cottonwood, AZ.

According to Randy Victory, "It pretty much started when I walked into the Restaurant and saw the enormous RANDALL'S sign. So, OK, I sit down at the table, take a few breaths and try to maintain my composure. Then all at once everyone starts applauding Randall Hauk for his gallant efforts with the volunteer program! Well that was enough for me, I lost it. You know up until now I have been THE ONLY RANDY and I take a lot of pride in that. Think about it VICTORY! That's MY NAME! And I AM THE VICTOR! If anyone thinks I'm going to let another guy just step in and take the limelight away from me, well we will see."

According to Randall Hauk, "Hey, I understand his frustration, but Victory doesn't own this restaurant, I do. I cook the food here and they're all my recipes. Victory can't even fry an egg. That's MY NAME in bold letters not his. Victory walks in and starts making a speech about his mountain bike efforts and his endless trips to Washington D.C. for bicycling advocacy. He starts telling everyone that what he does is way harder than what I do! He actually had the audacity to ask the attending volunteers for a show of hands on who their favorite Randy was."

There were mixed feelings from the crowd. Most were in agreement that this reign for dominance and power isn't over yet. They both have stuff to prove, remarks Volunteer Coordinator Eric Buzonas. They'll meet again. Victory wants to challenge Hauk to a bike race.

submitted by Ranger Eric, picture by Ranger Linda

PS. (submit your vote to Ranger Eric with a long dissertation as to why you think Randy or Randall is the best!)

submitted by the editor, volunteer Carolyn Meehan



From the manager:

Due to Dead Horse Ranch's net revenue we were not selected for closure. Thanks to all volunteers for helping keep our costs down, camping fees paid and accounted for, and customer service extremely high. I'm convinced we have the cream of the volunteer crop at Dead Horse Ranch. Les

*Hey Carolyn,
Sorry you are frozen in Florida, it is pretty nice here at Kartchner Caverns. We will be here until April. I am in the cave a lot and Tom is putting in a security system for the cave. We had a surprise visit from Ralph and Jeannette Moore. They had no plans, so we put them to work as camp host. Jeannette loved the cave so much, she went to the classes and is now a trailer in the cave.*

Hug to you and Trish, Pam Sanor

Isn't it amazing that we can round a curve, cross a bridge, and be in the midst of nature, with bobcats, coyotes, skunks, rabbits, eagles, waterfowl and all kinds of birds living with us? How lucky is that, and how very special is this park for all who enter. Nan Hephner

This is my first Roving Report of the new year. I've also loaded a couple albums in my Picasa web site. Since I've had to re-do many of my e-mail address's and groups, please let me know if you'd like me to correct any e-mail address in this group "Dead Horse Ranch" or add anyone to the list. PS, I'll be heading back to Florida around the end of Feb and heading into the Keys in March... :)

Doug Palosaari

DHRSP Wildlife Review



We have had numerous bobcat sightings in the last couple of weeks. There are at least 3 or 4 that are residing here now. As the easy prey becomes scarce, they will move on. I've already noticed a decline in the number of rabbits. Some additional wildlife residents at DHRSP are: javelina, coyotes, skunks, rabbits, beaver, river otter, both whitetail & mule deer, raccoons, the occasional mountain lion, eagles, hawks and too many other birds, waterfowl, reptiles and fish to attempt to list them all.

submitted by Manager Les, picture by Ranger Linda

Stop The PRESSES!!!

Haven't you just always wanted to yell that?



We have snow!! I am attaching a couple of photos. And, if you can hold the newsletter for a couple of days, we might have more photos. The park is completely closing at 2 p.m. Friday because there is evidence that a wall of water will be coming down the Verde River after that time, and no one knows what it might do to the bridge on 10th St. SOOOOO – the volunteers here are not being evacuated, but we did go out last night and stock up on groceries. Nan

*photos by
Nan Hephner
and Les
Bovee.*



Snow storm on Thursday, Jan 21, led to flooding, and then to clean up and restoration of the trails of DHRSP.



Here is a photo Nan stitched together from 3 photos, taken at the Tavasci Marsh Trail overlook at 9 a.m., Jan. 22, when the river was running at about 4,020 cfs. You can see Tuzigoot at top center.



The left and center pics were taken Friday evening, after the river had dropped considerably. Nan Hephner wrote, "It has clouded up yet again, so will see what happens overnight. The river crept up and muddied the ramp at Lower River Day Use, but it didn't get into the parking lot or restrooms. River or Trail? The river trail going upriver, where Quail Wash empties into the Verde, is more river than trail. The River Trail headed downriver from Quail Wash is just as wet, as the steps lead to nothing but water. There will be lots of trail restoration work when the floodwater recede.



This photo was taken of the Verde River looking west from the 10th St. bridge. Picture taken at 9 a.m. Fri.

The big surge expected did not occur. The river reached a peak of around 7000 cfs at about 5:30 a.m. Friday, Jan. 22. Normal cfs for the river is around 150. The cfs (cubic feet per second) has been dropping ever since, and was around 1000 yesterday. It is possible there may be another rise in the level as snow melts north of Cottonwood in the Verde River drainage. However, NOAA is not forecasting anything as high as what we have already seen. During the record-setting flood of 1993, the Verde River crested at 56,200 cfs. The nearest high since then was in 2005, with a crest around 26,000 cfs. For inquiring minds, that is all I've got! The sun is shining and the sky is clear. Halleluia!!!! Nan